

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 301147Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06697

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, POR, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH ASSESSMENT OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN
MINISTER SOARES

1. WIGGIN, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, FCO, HAS GIVEN US
AN EVALUATION OF SOARES WITH WHOM FOREIGN SECRETARY
CALLAGHAN AND MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE FCO TALKED
AT SOME LENGTH THIS PAST WEEKEND WHEN SOARES WAS IN
LONDON FOR TALKS WITH THE PAIGC.

2. WIGGIN SAID THAT THE BRITISH BELIEVE SOARES IS
ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO THE COMMUNIST PROBLEM IN PORTUGAL,
AND CONSIDERS IT ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES
TO ENSURE THAT THEIR POWER IS CONTAINED. OBSERVING THAT
BRITISH HAVE "PUT ALL THEIR EGGS IN SOARES' BASKET",
WIGGIN SAID THAT OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS ALIKE REGARD
SOARES AS HONEST, MODERATE AND INTELLIGENT. HE IS,
WIGGIN ADDED, QUICKLY GETTING A GRIP ON HIS RESPON-
SIBILITIES. WIGGIN THEN MADE A VERY STRONG APPEAL
FOR THE US TO SUPPORT SOARES. HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT
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FOR OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES IN PORTUGAL FOR THE SECRETARY

TO SEE HIM AS SOON AS CONVENIENT, AND HOPED SUCH A
MEETING WOULD BE POSSIBLE AT THE NAC MINISTERIAL IN
OTTAWA.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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